

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 499
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS KUWAIT 1656

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, LE, IS
SUBJECT: KUWAITI OFFICIAL AND PRESS COMMENT ON SOUTH
LEBANON AND ARAB SUMMIT

1. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH KUWAITI DAILY AL-WATAN (MARCH
20) HEIR APPARENT/PRI MIN SHEIKH SA'AD AL-ABDULLAH
REPORTEDLY SAID THAT KUWAIT AGREES TO AN URGENT ARAB
LEAGUE SUMMIT, ASSUMING THAT PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE
TO ENSURE A POSITIVE OUTCOME, AND THAT KUWAIT WILL BE REPRE-
SENTED AT THE SPECIAL ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING IN
CAIRO (CALLED BY THE LEAGUE SEC GEN) BY DEP PRI MIN/FON MIN
SHEIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD. SHEIKH SA'AD IS REPORTED TO HAVE
EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT THE SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION
"COULD CREATE A NEW REALITY AND TRANSFER THE WORLD'S ATTENTION
FROM THE BASIC PROBLEM, THAT OF THE ARAB LANDS OCCUPIED IN
1967."

2. KUWAITI MIN/CABINET AFFAIRS HUSSEIN TOLD NEWSMEN
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MARCH 19 THAT THE WEEKLY CABINET MEETING THAT DAY HAD
DWELT AT LENGTH ON "SOUTH LEBANON AND THE ISRAELI
AGGRESSION." HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE OPINED THAT THE
PRESENCE OF AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE IN LEBANON WILL NOT
SOLVE THE CRISIS, BUT THAT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND THE
SAFEGUARDING OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY WERE MOST IMPORTANT
AT THIS STAGE.

3. KUWAITI NEWSPAPERS CURRENTLY ARE FILLED WITH STORIES AND PICTURES ILLUSTRATING THE HUMAN SUFFERING RESULTING FROM MILITARY OPERATIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON. LOCAL EDITORIALISTS CONTINUE TO CRITICIZE ISRAEL IN THE STRONGEST TERMS FOR TAKING INNOCENT LIVES AND FOR POSING A GREATER THREAT TO THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE, THOUGH SOME WRITERS ASSERT THAT ISRAELI OPERATIONS IN LEBANON WILL ONLY STRENGTHEN PALESTINIAN RESOLVE. ONE WRITER (AL RAI AL AM, MARCH 20) ALLEGED THAT THE USG HAD INTENTIONALLY DELAYED UN SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION, AS IT HAD ALLEGEDLY DELAYED COUNCIL ACTION DURING THE 1967 WAR, AND SEVERAL EDITORIALS SUGGEST THAT THE US SUPPORTS ISRAELI ACQUISITION OF MORE LAND. KUWAITI, LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND KUWAITI LEFTIST EX-ASSEMBLYMAN AHMAD AL-KHATIB HELD A PEACEFUL RALLY MARCH 20 AT KUWAITI UNIVERSITY. SPEAKERS EXPRESSED THE THEME OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL.

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